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RUMANIAN LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, DECEMBER 1953

[Comment: This report presents information on the campaign conducted in Rumania in preparation for the election of people's councils, which was scheduled for 20 December 1953. The information was extracted from articles appearing in various Bucharest newspapers of November-December 1953, devoted to campaign techniques, electoral propaganda, and the role of the press and such mass organizations as the UTM (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitor, Union of Working Youth) and the ARLUS (Asociata Romana pentru Legaturi cu Uniunea Sovietica, Soviet Rumanian Friendship Society).

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources. ¹

MAIN ELECTION THEME

Intensive political and organizational activity is under way throughout Rumania in preparation for the election of deputies to the people's councils, scheduled for 20 December 1953. (1) Efforts must be made to persuade all qualified voters to go to the polls to assure a complete electoral victory for the FDP (Frontul Democratiei Populare, People's Democratic Front), and to strengthen the indissoluble union between the people, government, and party. (2)

The manifesto of the FDP has been received by the workers with great interest. This manifesto, as applied in Arad, for example, describes the important successes of the people's councils of the cities, communes, and villages of Arad Regiune in their struggle to raise the standard of living of the workers. It urges them to greet the elections with new successes in the fight to carry out the party and government economic program adopted for the purpose of developing the national economy and raising the people's standard of living, and to vote for the candidates of the FDP on 20 December. (3)

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The mass organizations, which link the party with the masses, have a very important role in persuading people to vote. Such organizations as the Central Council of Trade Unions, the UTM, cooperatives, and women's delegations are entrusted with the task of popularizing the party's policy and enforcing the state's economic program. Many of them have fulfilled their duty in factories and farms, which, as a result, are fulfilling their norms for the year.

There are others, however, whose work is unsatisfactory, especially among trade union and youth organizations, which neglect to check the activities of their members who belong to agitators' collectives. The trade union groups must constitute the basis of all mass political work in industrial installations, but it is this important link which is often neglected. Many of them have not been activated and their contribution to the electoral campaign is completely unsatisfactory. They must show the workers that the only way to raise their standard of living is to fight day by day to increase production, raise labor productivity, reduce living costs, and improve the quality of goods. These groups must also encourage workers to register and to participate in meetings between candidates and voters and in the activities of agitation points.

In spite of the great interest shown by youth in the electoral campaign, a great many of the rayon and regiune UTM units underestimate their duties in connection with the elections and work bureaucratically and without initiative. This is apparent in the Hungarian Autonomous Regiune, in Iasi Regiune, and others, where the agitation points are not assisted in visual agitation and the distribution of campaign literature. Youth work is especially deficient in the villages. Problems related to the development of farming and of animal husbandry should be the main points stressed in political work among young villagers. UTM organizations must actively help the cooperatives in their endeavors to get the peasants to sign delivery, livestock raising, and fattening contracts.

Many executive committees of people's councils fail to stimulate women's activities in the campaign.

The main concern of all mass organizations is to explain the tasks assigned by the party plenum of 19-20 August 1953 and to popularize the recent decree of the Grand National Assembly spelling out measures for raising the standards of living.

At this time the most important duty of the members of agitators' collectives is to explain to the citizens to which electoral district they belong, who the candidates are, where the voters' rosters can be checked, and where the polls will be located. It is the duty of the party committee to spur the mass organizations into action. However, they must repress the tendency to take over the tasks of these organizations, which would only result in their complete passivity.(1)

Agitators must stress the recent decrees of the party and government in regard to raising the standard of living. These include the following:

1. A decree concerning the improvement of the wage system with the aim of encouraging greater production. For this purpose, wages are to be established on a fairer basis, taking into consideration the importance of each branch of the economy, working conditions, and the degree of skill of the worker. Piece-work is to be paid at a 10-15 percent higher rate than time work, and at a progressive rate. Workers in unhealthful or difficult jobs will get a somewhat lesser raise. Wages of managers, technicians, firemen, and guards will also be raised.

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2. A decree reducing taxes on wages of laborers, technicians, white-collar workers, and on the incomes of writers, artists, and scientists by 30 percent.
3. A decree granting assistance in the building of individual or cooperative dwellings. Credits at a rate of interest of 10 percent will be granted to workers, technicians, white-collar workers, members of collectives lacking homes, village teachers, doctors, and health workers. Assistance in the form of building materials will also be granted.
4. A decree reducing the tax on houses by 20-30 percent.
5. A decree halving insurance rates.
6. A decree reducing water and sewer taxes by 25 percent and the cost of electricity to the consumer by 35 percent.
7. A decree reducing rents by about 20 percent.
8. A decree reducing kindergarten and day nursery fees by 50 percent.
9. A decree reducing the price of drugs by about 30 percent.
10. A decree raising the pension minimum to 100 lei per month in rural areas and 120 lei per month in urban communities.

The total benefits accruing to workers as a result of the decrees listed above are estimated to be 2 billion lei per year. In addition, a number of decrees are more specifically intended to benefit agriculture. They are as follows:

1. All back quotas for 1962 are canceled.
2. Quotas for wool, milk, and meat deliveries are substantially reduced.
3. Delivery quotas are reduced and a progressive increase in prices, tied to increased weight and improved quality of livestock, is granted to peasants contracting to fatten cattle. Price reductions on industrial goods are also granted to peasants.
4. Village retail stores are to be better stocked.
5. The income tax paid by collective farms is reduced by 25-50 percent. The amount of reduction depends on whether produce is sold on the market or to cooperatives. The sales tax is reduced 75 percent for collectives and 70%, and 50 percent for individual farmers.
6. Almost half a million hectares of land from state reserves will be divided among collectives and individual peasants with little property and large families.
7. New orchards will be tax exempt for 2 years.
8. The honey delivery quota is reduced 50-75 percent. Collectives starting to raise livestock, and breeders of certain breeds of sheep, will enjoy tax decreases.
9. Taxes paid by collectives and peasants contracting to deliver certain kinds of seed are reduced.

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10. Produce exceeding the average local production level is exempt from the income tax.

11. Veterinary service and chemicals to combat fruit tree diseases and pests are to be available gratis.

12. Henceforth people's councils are required to provide in their budgets the sums necessary to help fight fires and contagious diseases of livestock, etc., in rural communities, (4)

CAMPAIGN METHODS

Press

The press, the party's best ideological weapon and the mouthpiece of workers' opinion, has a very important task to perform in the electoral campaign. Since the elections are for organs of local government, most of the campaign agitation must be performed by the raion and regiune newspapers. Their job is to explain party and government policy and to mobilize the masses for its execution.

Some newspapers, properly guided by their local committees, have done their task well. Drapelul Rosu of Timisoara, Steagul Rosu of Bacau, and Voros Zaszlo of Targul Mures have made praiseworthy efforts. Other papers, such as Dobrogea Noua of Constanta, Zori Noi and other Suceava newspapers, and Steagul Rosu of Barlad, have treated political agitation and other important question only formally and superficially.

In the short time remaining before the elections, the papers must present their material vividly and convincingly. They must cite facts about their regiune, raion, and commune, pointing out the regime's great achievements in aiding the masses. The papers must explain and publicize the party's 19-20 August decisions, as well as the more recent decrees granting improved terms for peasants who sign up for delivery of produce and fattened livestock, and providing for tax reductions, distribution of state land reserves to collectives and individual peasants, reduced prices for drugs, wage increases, and credits for individual and collective housing.

The local press must help the people to apply these decrees by stimulating socialist competition, popularizing advanced methods of work, and pointing out methods for stimulating the discovery and development of local resources, raising labor productivity, and economizing on materials.

The newspapers must seize the opportunity to stress the need for improved activity on the part of people's councils, especially in the economic field. They must also work aggressively to strengthen the alliance between workers and peasants and to ensure a more important role for the workers in this alliance by discussing concrete benefits derived by the peasants from the people's democratic regime.

The electoral campaign is a vast school for mass political education. Agitators and party and mass organizations would be better able to achieve the correct blend between specific campaign problems and topical political and economic problems if the local press set a good example. It must publish articles on the best agitation collectives, on reading bees, agitation points, wall newspapers, broadcasting stations, and cultural centers. It must discuss those party organizations which train agitators properly and which draw trade unions, UTM groups, women's delegations, and other mass organizations into political work. Agitators would be greatly aided if papers published photographs, graphs,

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and tables of local achievements, and if they issued periodicals, pamphlets, folders, and other propaganda material. The papers must publicize FDP candidates, give voters information on the delimitations of electoral districts, on registration and voting places, and on how to vote. The people must be constantly reminded that the electoral campaign is a type of political action carried out by the people themselves for their own interest.(5)

Wall newspapers of institutions and enterprises are instruments of agitation which, when properly handled, can contribute greatly to the success of the electoral campaign. Wall newspapers must be used to mobilize the workers in the fight to carry out the economic program set up by the 19-20 August party congress and induce them to contribute fully to the intensification of political work in connection with the elections.

However, the wall newspapers of some Craiova institutions and enterprises completely ignore these aims as well as everyday problems. Although the elections are only a few weeks away, these papers fail to feature the campaign at the precise moment when agitation on this subject should reach its maximum intensity. Such is the case in the Partizanul factory, the Industria Lemnului Cooperative, the Railway Repair Shop, and the Electrical Machinery and Appliance Institute.

Most articles dealing with the elections are general in content and fail to discuss the daily life of workers in their respective factories. An inadequate article of this type appeared in an issue of the wall newspaper of the Partizanul factory, the only issue in which the elections were mentioned. This article could just as well have appeared in the wall newspaper of any one of the Craiova enterprises, for none of the factory's specific problems was mentioned. The author is a member of the women's brigade which has achieved considerable success. Nevertheless, the article mentioned neither these achievements, nor Zoia Taroveanu, head of the brigade and FDP candidate for electoral district No 121.

A similar situation exists in the Industria Lemnului cooperative. The wall newspaper there neglected to publicize the achievements of leading workers such as G. Munteanu, A. Corneliu, and Cornelia Lupu. The editors have revealed their complete lack of political orientation by publishing an article full of pompous generalities on the elections. This article gives no inkling of the fact that the workers are doing their utmost to provide the people with more and better furniture in honor of the elections.

Many editorial collectives, including those of the Railway Repair Shop and the Electrical Machinery Institute, have never understood the real part wall newspapers should play in the electoral campaign, nor their duty to advertise the achievements of the regime and the work and life of FDP candidates in their own enterprises. The Electrical Machinery Institute's paper has carried an article discussing the great success of the regime, but failing to give one concrete example. The paper might well have pointed out that the institute, which is only 2 years old, is training 500 students and has already added a 70-room wing and acquired new laboratory equipment.

The editorial collective of agitation point No 2, which published only one article on the elections, and other Craiova editorial collectives have failed to focus attention on the intensive campaign now in progress to prepare for the elections.(6)

Agitation Points

Agitation points are very important in the mass political work of the election campaign. Many of them in various regiunes and raions have improved their election work. They are offering interesting, attractive programs,

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including conferences, lectures, artistic programs, group radio listening, discussions with citizens, and question-and-answer sessions. For example, at agitation point No 10 in Herastrau-Bucharest, citizens met with Ion Mihaila, FDP candidate for electoral district No 218, to discuss the achievements of the people's council of I. V. Stalin Raion in setting up new food and textile stores, bread centers, and educational facilities for workers' children.

The agitation point in Bacau is located in the railway station. A collective of seven employees directs its activities in connection with the election campaign. Photomontages illustrating the achievements of the people's democracies and of the Soviet Union are on display. Also among the exhibits are the decrees of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly concerning the elections, and also slogans, posters, cartoons, and pamphlets. The agitation program for the week is conspicuously posted and can be seen by all travelers. Since the agitation point is in a railway station, its programs are designed to coincide with the arrival and departure of trains. A typical weekday program is as follows: at 1000 hours, popularization of candidates for people's councils; at 1200 hours, Agitator Petre Miron discusses the capitalist electoral farce; at 1700, Agitator Ion Popa discusses the latest international news with particular emphasis on the world struggle for peace against the aggressive plans of the American imperialists; at 1900, a talk on the democratic character of the people's council elections, followed by a question-and-answer period. A cultural program with music and dancing concludes the program.

An agitators' collective has also been organized at the station. Its main purpose is to give explanations to citizens in the waiting rooms and on the platforms. The agitators explain to the citizens to which electoral district they belong, the names of candidates in each district, the location of polling booths, and the time and place of meetings between candidates and voters.

More than 80 agitation points have been opened in Campeni Raion, Cluj Regiune, since the beginning of the campaign. Some of them such as those in Baia de Aries and Bucium Sat, are doing well, but many others, such as the agitation point in Abrud, are inactive. In Sacatura Commune it has not been made clear who is in charge of the agitation point. Simion Tuhut, chairman of the executive committee of the commune people's council, claims that the director of the cultural center is in charge. Ion Carja, secretary of the primary party organization, claims that he is supposed to be in charge. As a result of this conflict, nothing is being done.(7)

Agitation in Comana Commune, Vidra Raion, has been very successful. On a typical evening, peasants gather at the cultural center to talk with Marin I. Darastea, a medium peasant and FDP candidate for electoral district No 28. They exchange views on methods for applying government and party decrees on raising the standard of living of workers in factories and fields. The candidate tells the peasants about the electoral abuses characteristic of the times when the landowners and capitalists ruled the country. He contrasts this with the democratic character of present-day elections, when all power is in the hands of the people. He then calls upon voters to respond with deeds to the solicitude of the party and government for the welfare of workers, asking them to pledge deliveries to the state by 20 December. Peasants discuss the achievements of raion and commune people's councils and the numerous ways in which the government assists the peasants. At one meeting, medium peasant Nicolae C. Parvu, manager of the local cooperative, spoke of the increased harvests resulting from the use of scientific methods and of the great advantages accruing to those who sold their produce to the cooperative. Others described the benefits to be gained from contracts for livestock fattening and from the increased availability to the peasants of industrial goods in return for increased agricultural production.(6)

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Recently the voters of Constanta electoral district No 104 met with their candidate, housewife Maria Mihalache. The candidate recalled the achievements of the local people's council in raising the standard of living. Three food stores, a textile store, and bread and vegetable stands had been opened in the district, saving housewives the long walk to distant markets. The district now has two elementary schools and two kindergartens, one of which is conducted in the Tartar language. Numerous streets have been paved and the tarpaper on roofs replaced by galvanized sheet metal. The candidate pointed out, however, that much was still to be done, and invited women voters to submit criticism and suggestions. At the conclusion of the meeting the housewives pledged to aid the fulfillment of the policies established by the party plenum of 19-20 August 1953.(8)

The entire Hungarian Autonomous Regiune is carrying on intensive political agitation to achieve new successes in production in honor of the elections. Agitators in Targu Mures are engaged in house-to-house canvassing. About 2,000 are promoting the FDP candidates. Hundreds of meetings between candidates and voters at agitations points have been well attended. The party organization is devoting particular attention to visual agitation by means of posters, slogans, and photomontages. In many places mass political work is closely interwoven with cultural activity. On Sundays, artistic programs are presented at meetings between voters and candidates by cultural teams from enterprises, institutions, and cultural centers.(9)

A number of agitation points have performed poorly. The party committee of the Simeria railway complex has no directing collective and has planned no activities for its agitation point. No one is able to give travelers or railway workers explanations about the elections. The agitation point does not even possess the text of the decree on the elections or any material on the subject.(3) The agitation point in Traian Commune, Caracal Regiune, is inactive; its doors have been locked for weeks. It is located in the entrance hall of a house which is not heated, and the only printed matter available consists of two extracts from the electoral decree, a few pamphlets, and a list of people who are supposed to be on duty. The agitation point has no chairman, and has held no meetings or discussions. The Caracal Raion Party Committee must devote more attention to agitation points and must eliminate the formalism which persists in the activity of some of them.(4)

Agitation point No 1 of Vaslui is located at the headquarters of the 7 Noembrie Collective. It has extracts from the Constitution, the text of the electoral decree of the Grand National Assembly, publications showing electoral districts, etc., and is attractively decorated. However, the agitation point has no program of activities. No lectures have been presented, nor have meetings between voters and candidates been organized. The Vaslui Raion Party Committee, instead of appointing a well-qualified collective to organize the agitation point's activities properly, has preferred to request the secretaries of primary organizations to detail a number of agitators for duty. Under this system, the persons on duty frequently cannot give correct answers to voters seeking explanations.(7)

Agitation Methods

The party committee of the Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej clothing factory in Bucharest has trained about 150 agitators from the ranks of the workers on methods of discussing the elections in the neighboring Militari district. The instructors laid particular stress on the need for agitators to tell the voters to what raion and city district they belong and where the polls are located. The agitators must pay daily visits to citizens residing on the streets assigned to them and urge them to attend meetings between voters and candidates.

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A meeting between the citizens of electoral district No 148 and Eufrosina Niculescu-Mizil, chairman of the I. V. Stalin Raion People's Council, took place in the auditorium of the Ministry of Coal Industry. In her address, Niculescu-Mizil gave a short survey of the achievements brought about in Stalin Raion through the support of the citizens. Ana Ungureanu, Elena Bogalschi, and other voters talked about the constant preoccupation of the people's democratic regime with the improvement of the working people's standard of living. New stores have been opened, streets have been repaved, and a new square is under construction. Some deficiencies were also pointed out, including the failure to use empty lots for gardens and to repair a number of houses and streets, which could be done with the help of the residents.

FDP candidates in Zorleni Commune, Barlad Regiune, are explaining to their voters their duties with regard to the fulfillment of the collection plan. Elena Neagu, the peasants' candidate in electoral district No 31, was the first to deliver her full quota. Her example was followed by other peasants and as a result, 26 citizens have fulfilled their delivery norms.(3)

ARLUS

The ARLUS circles of Bagdad city and Regiune organized numerous conferences and literary gatherings, in which more than 4,200 workers took part, in connection with the electoral campaign. Lectures were given at the circle of the Focsani ironware factory, at the Girls' Normal School, and at the ARLUS circle of Munteni district of Barlad.

A cultural and artistic meeting was organized recently by the local ARLUS circle at the Lipov Commune cultural center in Craiova Regiune. A lecture was given by Maria Marculescu on the role of village Soviets in carrying out directives issued by the Soviet government and the CPSU. This was followed by an artistic program.(9)

In Carligati Commune, Husi Raion, the electoral campaign is in full swing. The agitation points are busy with conferences and discussions on the election. Increasing numbers of peasants are flocking to agitation point No 1 every day. Agitators on duty give explanations of the electoral law and describe candidates. Agitator Ioan Romascan, a member of the ARLUS circle bureau, gives detailed answers to peasants' questions and enlightens them on the striking difference between present and past elections. The ARLUS circle of the commune has trained 14 agitators and assigned one to each geographic sector for campaign work. In the village of Leonesti, the electoral decree was thoroughly studied and the democratic character of the elections stressed. ARLUS members have contributed nine articles on the election to local newspapers.

Ion Dumitrica, Gh. Vlad, and Niculina Chivu, members of ARLUS circle No 3 at the Electroaparataj plant, worked as a team to disseminate information on the elections. Chivu brought Soviet newspapers to a meeting in order to read about the Zhandarova, Khrisanova, and other Soviet methods. The team also visited private homes where many people listened with interest to their descriptions of Soviet elections and living conditions.(10)

Activists of ARLUS organizations in Falticeni Raion are contributing to the support of activities started by FDP agitation points. Petre Pusca and Nicolae Adascalitei, chairmen of the ARLUS circles of Sasca and Preotesti communes, participated in the mobilization of citizens to attend meetings organized by the FDP. They also spoke on "Soviet Deputies, True Representatives of the Working People," and "Elections of Working People's Deputies to People's Councils." The ARLUS circle of Fantana Mare Commune also sponsored a talk on the former topic.(11)

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ARLUS circles and other mass organizations in the villages of Ploesti Raion are doing their utmost to contribute to the electoral campaign. Effective support of the activities of agitation points and cultural centers is one of the tasks which they have assumed. The meeting of FDP candidate C. Iordachescu with voters at the circle of Barcanesti Commune was a model of good organization.

Collective listening to the "ARLUS Hour" of Radio Moscow is particularly popular among the peasants. In support of activities organized by cultural centers, the ARLUS circles of Bercesti, Romanesti, etc., have organized a series of lectures on Soviet deputies. The lectures, followed by artistic programs, attract large audiences. The circles also take an active part in the publication of newspapers. Their members have written articles on such subjects as "The Democratic Character of the Soviet Electoral System," and "The Local Soviets." Another achievement of these circles was the preparation of photomontages illustrating the fruits of local Soviet labor.

However, even better results could be obtained if the deficiencies in the work of many circles were removed. Numerous ARLUS circles of Ploesti Regiune have not even drawn up plans for their work. The Ploesti Raion ARLUS Committee must actively support and guide the circles in doing even more effective work in the electoral campaign, and must put to the best possible use printed material such as Local Organs of State Power in the USSR (Organele Locale ale Puterii de Stat in URSS) or The Soviet Deputy (Deputatul Sovietic), sent to them by the General Council of ARLUS.

It is the duty of the ARLUS circles to popularize the democratic character of the Soviet electoral system, which has provided the inspiration for the Rumanian system, by organizing conferences and listening groups, and by newspaper articles, photographic displays, etc. (12) ARLUS circles at agitation points and cultural centers in Budesti and Saboani communes, Roman Raion, in Recea Commune, Baia Mare Regiune, in Suceava, and in Cernavoda sponsored discussions of the Soviet electoral system and the role of people's soviets in building socialism. The 80 conferences held in Suceava Raion were attended by about 10,000 citizens, and the conference of people's councils recently held in Pildesti was attended by 350 persons. (13)

ARLUS circles in Stalin City are particularly active in the electoral campaign. For example, they are organizing gatherings every Friday at the FDP agitation point in the Steagul Rosu plant. (14)

Master shoemaker Petre Gabor is running for election to the people's council in Timisoara. The members of the Footwear Cooperative know him as an ardent friend of the Soviet Union. As chairman of the cooperative's ARLUS circle, he is actively engaged in the task of popularizing the achievements of the Soviet Union. During November 1953, the circle organized a series of lectures on current topics such as the Soviet people's fight for peace and the manner in which they carry out government and party decrees. The circle also concerns itself with the teaching of Russian to a class of 26 pupils. (15)

UTM

Meetings between candidates and voters offer an opportunity to discuss the most important political problems and are the concrete expression of the workers' devotion to the policy of the party and of their firm intention to support it. It is the duty of UTM organizations to participate actively in the organization of these meetings. UTM members can make the meetings friendly and popular. At the meetings they must publicize the candidates and their past achievements, emphasize the accomplishments of the people's councils, and suggest means of overcoming past mistakes. Young candidates for election must show the workers that they are competent and must apply the wishes of the workers when they are

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elected. Primary UTM organizations must carefully guide agitators and painstakingly devise the most suitable forms of agitation to publicize the candidates and the election.(15)

The actual success of the electoral campaign depends upon thorough political work among the masses. In this field the UTM committee of the Ch. Gheorghiu-Dej Raion in Bucharest has taken steps to mobilize youth in the struggle to carry out the decisions of the August party plenum. It has directed UTM members to conduct house-to-house campaigning. These members are now carefully briefed by party organizations and supervised by UTM committees, a process which was neglected at first. At the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej clothing factory, each UTM committee member is responsible for a group of young activists and accompanies them on their tour through neighborhood streets. Many agitators arrange appointments in advance with individual residents.

Special attention has been devoted to visual agitation. Permanent youth teams have been given the job of putting up campaign posters and ensuring the rapid distribution of campaign literature. There are now 175 such teams in the raion. The teams also publicize candidates and explain the purpose of the elections. Artistic teams also have a big share in the campaign. Many of them have added new songs, sketches, and plays connected with the elections to their repertoire. They visit cultural centers around Bucharest every Sunday to present programs and to discuss local problems, on which they have been carefully coached in advance.

The UTM Raion Committee has also given detailed instructions to collectives of wall newspaper editors. As a result many of the papers are read with great interest by young people. In many cases advanced Soviet methods of production have been adopted as a result of wall newspaper articles, and production has been increased in honor of the elections.

Nevertheless, there are some weak points in the activities of the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej Raion UTM Committee. Club and Red Corner activities are still unsatisfactory. The best agitators are not sent to the villages, and the raion committee has not supervised village agitation points closely enough, particularly those headed by UTM members. As a result, the agitation points in Dragomiresti Vale and elsewhere are below par. In other cases artistic programs presented by youth teams have been inadequately prepared. There are also shortcomings in the mobilizing of youth to fulfill production plans and to improve study in schools. However, these shortcomings can be expected to be overcome soon and the ties binding UTM members to other youths will be further strengthened.(16)

Although the UTM city committee in Constanta is only 200 meters from agitation point No 1, its activists have never been there, and have disregarded requests for help. Consequently the agitation point has held none of the ten conferences scheduled. Visual education is completely neglected in Bacau Regiune, because some of the UTM organizations do not devote enough attention to mass political agitation. Their lack of interest is apparent in Buhusi, Piatra Neamt, Tacaciuni, Bicaz, and other areas. At Piatra Neamt, for example, the railroad station and many streets have no posters or slogans. Few of the posters distributed to schools and enterprises of Bacau have been put up by the young people.

In Tamboiesti Commune, Ramnicu Sarat Raion, mass agitation by the UTM and FDP regiune councils is unsatisfactory. Campaign material lies untouched in the chairmen's offices and no attempt has been made to publicize local candidates. Regular and wall newspapers do not even mention them. The voters' registry is almost inaccessible, and the door of the agitation point is always locked. The radio and library of the agitation point are unused. Activists of the raion UTM organization have not directed the secretary of the commune UTM to organize

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collective radio-listening groups or artistic teams. They often visit villages which have problems, but do not help the local UTM organizations to enlist the youth in the electoral campaign.(17)

Trade Unions

The trade unions of the RPR, which are participating in the FDP, must contribute to the elections to the best of their ability and ensure a victory for the FDP. Many trade unions have fulfilled this task successfully. Conscious of their responsibility toward the electoral campaign, they have used all available means to prepare the masses for the elections. At the Bucharest ITB (Intreprinderile de Transport Bucuresti, Bucharest Transport Enterprises) Central Shops, 18 Stakhanovites and leading workers are running for election. The enterprise committee is mobilizing workers to participate in meetings to select candidates and is sending its artistic team out to present programs at agitation points. Every trade union group has studied the electoral law thoroughly. Posters and slogans have been posted and wall newspapers are popularizing the pledges and achievements of workers in honor of the elections.

Some commune trade union committees in Bucharest Regiune are also doing good work. In Racari Raion, for example, the Odobesti and Titu commune trade union committees have enlisted the aid of teachers and other union members to decorate agitation points and publicize the electoral decree.

However, not all trade unions are active in the campaign. At the Uzinele Chimice Romane (Rumanian Chemical Plant), no visual agitation has been set up and candidates have received no publicity. Some of the enterprise committees in the Campina and Uriati oil fields are doing nothing but waiting for instructions. The Central Council of Trade Unions, the regiune central committees, and the regiune trade union commission which have left such important duties entirely to the enterprise committees, without supervision or guidance, bear a heavy responsibility for these shortcomings.

The little time remaining before the elections must be used for the intensification of agitation work. Every enterprise committee must check daily on the way political explanations are being given at workbenches, on the activities of clubs, Red Corners, wall newspapers, and radiofication stations. Enterprise committees must aid and direct these activities. All trade union organizations must help party units to impress upon the workers the great achievements accomplished through the alliance of workers and peasants under party guidance. Concrete facts must be pointed out and telling arguments used to convince the people that the August party decisions could mean a better life for them. Each worker and employee should be told what his contribution should be.(18)

The enterprise committee in the Rahova brewery, Bucharest, is carrying on intensive political work under the guidance of the party organization. Stakhanovite Vasile Margineanu, organizer of the trade union group in the barrel section, explained to his fellow workers that every man must greet 20 December with new production records. As a result, his group began working on the 1954 norms at the beginning of December 1953. The wall newspaper of the brewery is doing a good job. To prevent interest from flagging, the collective of the agitation point, along with the cultural club, arranges consultations, collective reading bees, literary evenings, etc. These are followed by excellent artistic programs presented by the enterprise art collective. Slogans and posters are distributed throughout the plant.

As a result, 432 workers are engaged in competitions in honor of the elections. Norms are being exceeded by an average of 27.2 percent and quotas for 1953 have been fulfilled in 10 months and 5 days. Still greater successes are to be expected by election day as a result of well-organized agitation.(19)

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SOURCES

1. Scanteia, 16 Dec 53
2. Ibid., 11 Dec 53
3. Ibid., 1 Dec 53
4. Ibid., 19 Dec 53
5. Ibid., 6 Dec 53
6. Ibid., 3 Dec 53
7. Ibid., 2 Dec 53
8. Ibid., 4 Dec 53
9. Veac Nou, 12 Dec 53
10. Ibid., 28 Nov 53
11. Ibid., 2 Dec 53
12. Ibid., 9 Dec 53
13. Ibid., 19 Dec 53
14. Ibid., 25 Nov 53
15. Scanteia Tineretului, 8 Dec 53
16. Ibid., 4 Dec 53
17. Ibid., 9 Dec 53
18. Munca, 5 Dec 53
19. Ibid., 8 Dec 53

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